



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT of  
**CORRECTIONS AND  
REHABILITATION**

# THIS WEEK

[www.CDCR.ca.gov](http://www.CDCR.ca.gov)

September 20, 2010

## CSP, Sacramento Inmate Garden Feeds Rescued Animals at Folsom Zoo

Inmates at California State Prison, Sacramento (SAC) recently harvested their fifth crop to feed rescued animals at the Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary in a new partnership between the prison, the zoo and a local retail store in Folsom. To date, more than 400 pounds of vegetables have been harvested and fed to rescued animals.

During a meeting earlier this year at the Folsom Chamber of Commerce, SAC Warden Tim Virga, in a discussion with City of Folsom Parks and Recreation Director, Robert Goss, learned that Goss' department, which manages the zoo, faced significant financial challenges because of the weak economy. Some city personnel have been laid off and city agencies were asked to reduce their expenditures.

Warden Virga thought of a way the prison could help. Minimum Support Facility inmates could grow vegetables on prison grounds to help reduce the city's costs to feed the animals at the zoo. The Folsom Zoo Inmate Garden Project was launched.



*An inmate harvesting from the vegetable garden.*

"This is an opportunity for the inmates to give something back to the community," Warden Virga said, "and for the institution to be a good neighbor, especially during these tough economic times."

"We are so impressed that our local prison officials are willing to engage in this community partnership," said Goss. "We are hopeful this will be a long-term relationship."

Approximately 280 Level I inmates at the prison are available for work assignments

in areas such as landscaping, janitorial and building maintenance. The inmates who work in the Folsom Zoo Inmate Garden Project come from a weed abatement crew. The project saves funds for the city and there is no cost to the state. Inmates take pride in meaningful work that helps rescued animals in the community.

Zoo officials pick up harvests every two weeks. Each harvest has averaged approximately 100 pounds of vegetables, including squash, peppers, cabbage, sunflower seeds and spinach.

The Folsom City Zoo Sanctuary is home to wild animals and birds, including those injured, abandoned and not able to return to the wild. There are blue and double yellow amazons, macaws and golden eagles; tigers and cougars; and four bears named "Tahoe," "Sequoia," "Marty" and "Woody." Marty had been shot in the hip and Tahoe's mother had been injured and disappeared so the cub was left to fend for herself. Both were rescued by the zoo and have been friends ever since. They all love to eat.

## State Employees Charitable Campaign Runs through October -- Pledge Today!

It's that time of year for the CDCR's Workplace Giving Program - the California State Employees Campaign (CSECC).

The CSECC Kick-Off Event for the organizers at the various state departments was held at the State Capitol on September 2.

More than 100 nonprofit organizations came together on the west steps of the State Capitol to share valuable information, success stories and other beneficial ideas in preparation for the upcoming giving campaign. The nonprofit organizations were ready, willing and able to talk about their goals as well as any volunteer opportunities they had.



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Campaign pledge forms will be distributed in October. Get involved and lead by example to inspire others. Do something nice for someone you don't know.

A team of volunteers will make sure you get a Payroll Deduction Authorization form where you can designate your contribution of choice. These volunteers

will also provide you assistance in completing the form and they will answer any questions you may have.

In addition, you may go to the CSECC campaign website for a listing of the many organizations that are helped by this campaign: [www.csecc.org](http://www.csecc.org).

Completing the Payroll Deduction form is quick and easy. The nonprofit community needs continued support in these difficult times. The continued generosity of CDCR employees ensures that the state's nonprofit sector can continue to provide a critical safety net in California.

Have questions? please call Elisabeth Ray at 916-255-3849 or via e-mail at [elisabeth.ray@cdcr.ca.gov](mailto:elisabeth.ray@cdcr.ca.gov)

For Campaign information, please visit [www.csecc.org](http://www.csecc.org).

For more details on this information please visit the CDCR Intranet at <http://intranet/> or [www.cdcr.ca.gov](http://www.cdcr.ca.gov)